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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/53/620)*]

53/124. New international humanitarian order

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 51/74 of 12 December 1996 and other pertinent resolutions[1] relating to the promotion of a new international humanitarian order and of international cooperation in the humanitarian field,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General[2] and the previous reports[3] containing the comments and views of Governments as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

Keeping in mind the importance, in this context, of the role of the United Nations system, including, in particular, the newly established Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat,

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[1] Resolutions 36/136 of 14 December 1981, 37/201 of 18 December 1982, 38/125 of 16 December 1983, 40/126 of 13 December 1985, 42/120 and 42/121 of 7 December 1987, 43/129 and 43/130 of 8 December 1988, 45/101 and 45/102 of 14 December 1990, 47/106 of 16 December 1992 and 49/170 of 23 December 1994.

[2] A/53/486.

[3] A/37/145, A/38/450, A/40/358 and Add.1 and 2, A/41/472, A/43/734 and Add.1, A/45/524, A/47/352, A/49/577 and Corr.1 and A/51/454.

Noting with concern the growing number of complex emergencies and humanitarian problems,

Noting the importance of adherence to internationally accepted norms and principles and the need to promote, as required, national and international legislation to meet actual and potential humanitarian challenges,

Bearing in mind that an adequate response to emergency situations can be best ensured through local capacity-building and institution-building,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his continuing support for the efforts to promote a new international humanitarian order;

2. *Invites* Governments to make available to the Secretary-General, on a voluntary basis, information and expertise on humanitarian problems of special concern to them, in order to identify opportunities for future action;

3. *Calls upon* Governments and other actors to ensure strict adherence to accepted humanitarian norms and principles and to promote national and international legislation that is responsive to actual and potential humanitarian problems;

4. *Invites* the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues to reinforce its activities as described in the report of the Secretary-General[2] and other pertinent documents;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to remain in contact with Governments and the non-governmental organizations concerned, including the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session.

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998